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COR-0832-60 ✓

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1 JUN 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Hycon Vice President Visits Project Headquarters

1. On 26 May Mr. Raymond A. BALLWEG, Jr., Vice President of Hycon visited Project Headquarters and met with [REDACTED] after determining that the DD/P was unavailable.

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2. BALLWEG stated that Hycon was approached by an unnamed representative of McDonnell Aircraft Corporation, allegedly because of interest indicated by someone, unidentified, in NASA and CIA, for the purpose of determining if Hycon would prepare a camera proposal for use in the Mercury program. BALLWEG asked if the identity of the NASA or CIA people interested in the foregoing is known. When told that a quick check revealed that Project Headquarters had no information about this matter, BALLWEG indicated that he would check with his former boss, Mr. Richard Horner, at NASA.

3. BALLWEG stated that Hycon can prepare an attractive camera proposal for a recoverable Mercury capsule utilizing a new 70, 84, or 96 mm lens system, B-configuration components, and thin base film for a 3-day operation. This system would be capable of resolving five feet on the ground. Further, Hycon could have a camera available for flight within ten months time. BALLWEG pointed out that due to the stress on reliability in the recovery phase of the Mercury capsule, this approach should provide a high degree of probability for camera recovery. BALLWEG felt that since the Mercury program plans a number of firings, for test purposes, without astronauts aboard, the inclusion of a camera should be attractive substitute package to the intelligence community. BALLWEG felt strongly that some interim system should be of interest to the intelligence community until SAMOS becomes operational.

4. BALLWEG stated that if the DD/P is interested in the foregoing, Hycon, at its own expense, would prepare a proposal for presentation to the DD/P. Hycon, however, would not wish to undergo the expense of working up a formal proposal unless the DD/P endorses the idea as having merit. BALLWEG was told that the foregoing would be brought to the attention of the DD/P.

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5. New Subject: BALLWEG mentioned that Hycon may supply two A-2 cameras to [REDACTED] for use in two modified Q2C drones. If [REDACTED] receives a contract from the USAF as expected on 3 June, Hycon will be required to deliver to [REDACTED] two (2) A-2 cameras by 31 July. According to Hycon, [REDACTED] are the cognizant USAF officers of this project. [REDACTED] states that the above officers are assigned to USAF Reconnaissance Operations at the Pentagon.

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[REDACTED]
Colonel USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

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